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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON

15 August 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

In my memorandum of 9 August, summarizing the action I have taken to implement your decision that we be prepared to deploy as many as 6 additional divisions to Europe by 1 January 1962, I reported:

a. Initially, the Army had estimated that conversion of the 3 STRAF divisions to a combat ready status would require 66,000 men. More detailed plans now show this can be accomplished through the assignment of 50,000 men, 16,000 less than originally planned.

b. The plan to strengthen the 5 divisions of the 7th Army and its associated supporting units in Europe provided for the addition of 64,000 men, including approximately 17,000 men to replace European civilians employed by USAREUR. Discussions with Generals Norstad and Palmer have led the Army to conclude that the 17,000 Europeans need not be replaced.

In my telephone conversation with you this morning I recommended that the Army be authorized to utilize the 33,000 "spaces", provided by the reductions in our STRAF and 7th Army requirements, for the drafting and training of men to serve as individual replacements. Later, if it appears desirable to organize a 15th division, these men would be available for assignment to that division.

Based on your approval of my recommendation, I have authorized the Army to recruit the additional personnel. As a result, the Army's plans provide for utilization of the full increase of 133,000 men which you proposed in your July 25 Report To The Nation.

*Robert S. McNamara*

Robert S. McNamara

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